

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955

ARTHUR LUCAS,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Year 1955

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the 1955.

The Vital Statistics compare favourably with those for the rest of the Country, and it is gratifying to note that there no deaths of infants under one year and no maternal deaths.

With the introduction of the new Food and Drugs Act, one can hope in the future, with regular inspection of the food premises that there should be less chance of food poisoning, although the Borough has been remarkably free from this infection for many years.

The Borough has been free from Poliomyelitis for the past five years, and with the introduction of Poliomyelitis Vaccine let us hope there may never be any cases of this infection in the Borough.

Again I wish to thank Mr. Morgan for the assistance he has given me in the past year.

Your obedient Servant,

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health

September 1956

Public Health Committee, December 1955

Councillor L.S. Coles, Chairman, Councillor Miss E.M. Traneker,
Vice Chairman, Councillors G.C. Hodges, G. Law, H.C. Miller,
W.S. Pope, E.A. Tutton and E. Wherry.

Public Health Officers,

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Also holds appointments of:

Medical Officer of Health, Brackley Rural District Council
Medical Officer of Health, Towcester Rural District Council
Medical Officer of Health, Northampton Rural District Council
Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County
Council and Assistant County School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector: Clifford Morgan, C.R.S.I., who also holds the
Appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1955.

Area of Borough (acrea)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,685
Population, estimated mid-year..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,020
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	975
Rateable Value of Borough, 1st October 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£15,959
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£62

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Eng. & Wales</u>
Legitimate...	28	29	57	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			19.2	15

Still-births: Two still-births were recorded during the year under review.

This is equivalent to a still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still-births) of 33.3. The rate for the administrative County is 24.3 and that for England and Wales. 23.1.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths (all causes)...	23	18	41

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 13.5 Eng. & Wales 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis...	nil
Other Puerperal causes...	nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year..	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	2
Deaths from Measles	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)...	nil
Deaths from Pregnancy, child-birth or abortion	nil

Area: There was no change during the year in the administrative area of the Borough which remains at 1,685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 3,920, and the vital statistics are based on this figure. The estimated population is higher by 40 than that for the year 1954; the natural increase in population, that is, the increase of births over deaths was 17.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 41. The death-rate, based on the mid-year estimated population is 13.5 as compared with 11.38 for the administrative County of Northamptonshire and 11.7 for England and Wales.


A table giving a list of the causes of death in the Borough classified under the various causes is given on page 3.

Births: The number of births which occurred in the Borough during the year was 58. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 19.2. The rate for the administrative County was 15.49 and for England and Wales 15.

Infant Mortality: There were no infant deaths under one year recorded during the year under review.

The following table gives the birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality rate for the Borough, the administrative County of Northamptonshire and England and Wales for the past five years:-

Year	Birth-rate			Death-rate			Infant Mortality-rate		
	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales
1951	17.6	15.57	15.50	13.0	12.13	12.5	nil	25.26	29.60
1952	15.6	15.50	15.3	10.4	11.04	11.3	22.2	24.96	27.60
1953	17.0	16.16	15.50	10.2	11.51	11.40	nil	24.70	26.80
1954	17.1	16.20	15.2	12.6	11.04	11.3	58.8	23.49	25.50
1955	19.2	15.49	15.00	13.5	11.38	11.7	nil	20.79	24.90



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Registered Causes of Death.

Causes						Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis, other forms...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
5	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
8	Measles... ..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
16	Diabetes... ..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease...	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
20	Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
21	Other circulatory disease...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
22	Influenza... ..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia... ..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
24	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
25	Other disease of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
34	All other accidents ...	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
35	Suicide... ..	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
36	Homicide and operations of War ...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
All causes						23	18	41

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities: The examination of pathological specimens and samples of water is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford. The Service is free of charge and Medical Practitioners in the Borough submit specimens direct to the Laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities: Infectious disease cases requiring hospital treatment are removed and treated at the Isolation Hospital Northampton.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade Service continued to operate during the year under review. The Service operates under contract with the Hospital Management Authority and was available for the removal to Hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases. The service, which is available by day and night is free and is a great asset to residents of the Borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The Infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year and sessions were held on the second Thursday in every month at the Women's Institute Hall, Manor Road. Orthopaedic Clinics, Vision Clinics and Dental Clinics for School children which are organised by the County Council continued to operate during the year under review. Preventive and after-care services for tuberculous cases are administered by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete nursing service within the Borough and "Home Helps" are available in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home..

An "After-care" Committee was established in the Borough during the year. The members, a body of willing workers, organise efforts to obtain funds, and collect clothing for distribution to those in need.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply: The main supply of water for the Borough is from a deep well with a fifteen inch bore hole at the bottom. A submersible electric pump is used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 120,000 and 12,000 gallons capacity respectively. The old well with oil engine plant was not used during the year owing to the very low water level and the Council considered dismantling the old engine. The water is chlorinated but not filtered and samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year showed that it was of good bacterial purity.

A supplementary main from the Bucks Water Board System is laid on to the Borough boundary, and water from this source is available in an emergency. During January of the year under review owing to a partial failure of the electricity supply, 6,450 gallons were taken from this source on one day. In order to rest the water in the Council's well and not unduly to reduce the head level of the water in the borehole, water from the emergency supply was used from July to December. The daily gallonage used from this source during these months was as follows: July, 4,970; August 14,273; September 27,006; October 18,715; November 20,415; December 19,483.

Since the storage capacity at the Waterworks represents approximately one day's consumption, and the maximum daily gallonage permitted from the Bucks Water Board emergency supply is 60,000, the need for greater storage capacity at the Waterworks is felt should it be found necessary to change the submersible pump which involves the dismantling and later re-assembling of approximately 200 feet of rising main.

Sewage Disposal: The sewage disposal works comprising two filter beds, two sedimentation tanks, humas lagoons and electrical plant for lifting the level of one outfall sewer continued to function satisfactorily during the year. With the exception of twenty-two houses in outlying parts of the district where levels will not permit connecting with the system, all premises are connected to the sewerage.

Rivers and Streams: No complaints were received regarding pollution of the River Ouse into which the effluent from the sewage disposal works discharges.

Camping Sites: There are no camping sites in the Borough

Smoke Abatement: No action was necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Bath: The public swimming pool owned by the Council was used during the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. Chloros is regularly added to the water in order to maintain a reasonable standard of purity, but it is not practicable to obtain a constant residual chlorine content in such a large volume of water as 60,000 gallons when the water is changed only three or four

times during the season. As I have previously reported I shall be glad to see the installation of a filtration and chlorination plant at this pool.

Eradication of Bed Bugs: No infestation by bed bugs was found during the year under review.

Public Cleansing: House refuse was collected weekly using direct labour and a "Bantam Karrier" refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. One part of the Borough was covered on Thursdays and the other on Fridays.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: The provisions of this Act were operated by one of the Council's workmen and the Sanitary Inspector for the greater part of the year under review. During the latter part of the year the Council appointed Mr. W.G. Dartlett as a part-time rodent operative. No major infestations were found during the year. Good results were obtained in premises treated with the use of Warfarin with oatmeal baits. Sewers were test baited with sausage rusk and where a small take was observed in one instance, zinc phosphide with sausage rusk was used successfully.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING YEAR

Number of visits and inspections:

Visits to slaughter-house...	...	...	...	...	194
Inspections of butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	25
Number of old drainages tested	...	...	...	...	17
Number of new drainages tested	..	...	..	...	28
Inspections of bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans	...	...	...	...	12
Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	135
Inspections of fried fish shops...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspections of other food shops...	...	...	...	...	34
Inspections in connection with rodent control	...	...	...	...	58
Number of minor infestations treated	...	...	...	...	34
Inspections of factories and workshops..	...	...	...	...	24

SECTION D

HOUSING

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: During the year no applications were received from tenants for certificates of disrepair and no certificates were issued.

Improvement Grants: Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, owners of dwelling houses may apply to the local authority for a grant towards providing additional amenities to their houses, such as the provision of constant hot water and indoor sanitation etc., and the local authority may, subject to the submission of plans and competitive tenders for the work, give a grant towards the cost which may be up to fifty per cent of the total cost of the improvements. During the year three grants were made.

Slum Clearance: During the year the Council submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government a statement in which the estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1956, was 21. These houses are required to be demolished within a period of five years.

During January of the year under review 25 "Gregory" houses which were commenced during 1954 were completed and a new programme of 14 houses was commenced. A total of seventeen three-bedroomed Council houses were completed during the year. Eleven private enterprise houses were completed during this period and there were four under construction at the end of the year

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 115 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 135 |
| (2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 | - |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 21 |

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 34
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notice:
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers... 29
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:
- (a) Proceedings under section 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... -
- (2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners ... -
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... -
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936:-
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners ...
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... -
- (c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... -
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. -
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part 4 Overcrowding:
- Number of serious cases of overcrowding in the area ... -

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply: The number of milk retailers in the Borough is 2; all milk retailed is produced outside the area.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

Food Shops: Shops where food is prepared for sale were inspected and found to be well maintained and clean. Retailers continued to display notices requesting the public from taking dogs into their shops.

Meat and Other Foods: The Brackley Meat Company which was formed when slaughtering was decontrolled continued to operate the Slaughter-house under the supervision of the Council. The numbers of animals slaughtered during the year were as follows:-

Cattle...	...	...	484
Sheep and lambs	...	...	3130
Calves...	...	...	125
Pigs	...	...	853

Regular inspections were made to the slaughter-house and upon inspection meat and offal weighing One ton ten cwts two qrs. were found to be diseased unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered. Diseased meat and offal were regularly collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

The following foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the year:-

Seven $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tins Tomatoes: 80 lbs chilled beef; 12 lbs Pork Luncheon Meat: 8, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb Corned Beef, 1, $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin shoulder Ham.

SECTION FPREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles was epidemic during the year and 159 cases were reported. All patients made good recoveries and there were no deaths from infectious disease.

Food Poisoning: One case of food poisoning was reported during the year under review. The patient, aged twenty months made a quick recovery and the source of infection could not be traced.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Details of vaccination and immunisation carried out in the Borough during the year are as follows and I am indebted to Dr. C.M. Smith, County Medical Officer of Health for providing this information:-

Vaccination.

	Under 1.	1.	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary... ..	11	1	1	-	2	15
Re-vaccination..	-	-	-	-	5	5

Diphtheria Immunisation

Under 1	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total	Booster
9	7	-	-	-	2	2	20	5

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
Whooping Cough only	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
* Combined Diphtheria/ Pertussis	21	10	5	-	-	4	2	42

* The combined diphtheria pertussis figures are included in the figures for diphtheria immunisation for half-years ending June 30th and December 31st.

Number of Children who have completed a full
Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5 - 9 1946- 1950	10 - 14 1941- 1945	Total Under 15
Number immunised	4	32	26	35	31	182	129	439

Tuberculosis One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was reported during the year. One case was declared cured and there were no deaths from this disease during the year. The numbers of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary... ..	3	9	12
Non-Pulmonary	3	1	4
Total	6	10	16

